

The Wethersfield Historic District Commission held a Public Hearing on March 26, 2013 at the Wethersfield Town Hall, Town Manager's Conference Room – First Floor, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, Connecticut.

Members Present: Robert Garrey, Chairperson
Michael Rell, Vice Chairperson
Mark Raymond
Lisa Wurzer, Alternate
Douglas Ovian, Alternate
Paul Courchaine, Alternate

Members Absent: Cynthia Greenblatt, Clerk Pro Tem
John Maycock, Clerk

Also Present: Kristin Stearley, Historic District Coordinator
Linda Messina, Recording Secretary

Commissioner Garrey called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, and read the opening comments. Commissioner Rell, Clerk, read the Legal Notice as it appeared in the *Rare Reminder* on March 14, 2013.

APPLICATION NO. 4130-13. Southern New England Windows seeks to install nine (9) replacement windows at 170 Church Street.

Southern New England Windows, 1137 Park Avenue East, Woonsocket, Rhode Island, appeared before the Commission. They would like to replace 9 windows. They will not replacing the windows on the addition. They currently have full divided light with grills on the top only. Seven windows are 6/1 and two windows are 8/1. They will have the same light patterns. The windows are a wood composite. The muntins will be applied to the interior and exterior. They are Andersen Renewal windows. There will be no changes to the existing trim.

Commissioner Garrey asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

APPLICATION NO. 4131-13. Tina and Jon Amarante-Welner seeking to amend Certificate of Appropriateness number 4078-12 to enlarge the width from 13'9" to 16' and modify the design of the approved addition to include the relocation of windows and the addition of a sliding glass door and the removal of the rear door with overhang at 271 Garden Street.

Gary Vivian, Cactus Designs, 43 Old Pewter Lane, appeared before the Commission. They would like to modify the approved application. New drawings were submitted. The width of the addition was originally 13'9" and it will now be 16' and shifting over approximately 3' so that it is more centered on the back of the house. On the northeast (front) elevation, the sloped wall will be removed. There will be no change on the garage side. On the southwest elevation, the two awning windows on the 2nd floor will be moved to the side elevation of the addition. The window on the 1st floor will be a little bit shorter with a round top. It will have shutters to match existing shutters on the house. The single French door and overhang will no longer be needed. On the northwest elevation, the window they were proposing is now an Andersen gliding patio door. It will be 5' instead of 3'. The deck will be moved and they will re-attach the existing deck. They are not changing anything, just moving the actual deck.

Commissioner Garrey asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

APPLICATION NO. 4132-13. John Aforismo seeks to retain the replacement of the wood garage doors with steel garage doors at 49 Broad Street.

John Aforismo, 185 Broad Street, appeared before the Commission. The two replacement garage doors are already installed. The original doors were red wood doors that were rotting and falling apart. They had raised panels and lights. He replaced the doors with insulated steel doors that will be painted to match the whole barn which is being repainted in the spring.

Commissioner Garrey asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

APPLICATION NO. 4126-13. John Scanlan and Cindy Kuse seek to amend Certificate of Appropriateness Number 3949-11 to retain the modification of the window location and the alteration of material, design, and numbers of windows on the second story addition at 3 Avalon Place.

John Scanlan, 3 Avalon Place, appeared before the Commission. There is a window in the new addition. It is in the bathroom above the sunroom. In the original application, there were two casement windows that were supposed to mimic the dormer windows on the third floor on the front elevation. However, in order to accommodate the double vanity they wanted, they had to put in a vertical double hung window and it is off-centered. The new window is the same size as the existing bathroom window that faces the street now. The window they installed is an Andersen wood window. It has snap-in grills on the inside only. The window has a 6/6 light pattern. The shutters are not installed yet because they are being built.

Commissioner Garrey asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

Upon motion by Commissioner Courchaine seconded by Commissioner Ovian, and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to close the public hearing and to open the public meeting.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Raymond, Courchaine, Ovian

APPLICATION NO. 4130-13. Southern New England Windows seeks to install nine (9) replacement windows at 170 Church Street.

Upon motion by Commissioner Raymond seconded by Commissioner Courchaine and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application as submitted.

Discussion

Commissioner Garrey stated that these windows have been used before very successfully. They are very nice windows.

Commissioner Ovian stated that he is intrigued by the product. This is a good house to see how these windows will work in the District.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Raymond, Courchaine, Ovian

APPLICATION NO. 4131-13. Tina and Jon Amarante-Welner seeking to amend Certificate of Appropriateness number 4078-12 to enlarge the width from 13'9" to 16' and modify the design of the approved addition to include the relocation of windows and the addition of a sliding glass door and the removal of the rear door with overhang at 271 Garden Street.

Upon motion by Commissioner Rell seconded by Commissioner Courchaine and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application as submitted.

Discussion

Commissioner Garrey stated that this is pretty low impact. The changes take care of the roofline issue.

Commissioner Ovian stated that the view from the public way is actually enhanced with the changes.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Raymond, Courchaine, Ovian

APPLICATION NO. 4132-13. John Aforismo seeks to retain the replacement of the wood garage doors with steel garage doors at 49 Broad Street.

Upon motion by Commissioner Ovian seconded by Commissioner Rell and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application as submitted.

Discussion

Commissioner Garrey stated that it would have been nice to have a conversation about what style to use in a very rustic barn. Once painted, it will be minimal impact.

Commissioner Ovian stated that the homeowner indicates the requisite level of contrition that the Commission is looking for, but the main issue is, is this something that the Commission would have approved of in advance? It is a relatively limited view.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Raymond, Courchaine, Ovian

APPLICATION NO. 4126-13. John Scanlan and Cindy Kuse seek to amend Certificate of Appropriateness Number 3949-11 to retain the modification of the window location and the alteration of material, design, and numbers of windows on the second story addition at 3 Avalon Place.

Upon motion by Commissioner Ovian seconded by Commissioner Rell and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application with the following stipulation:

1. The windows on the addition shall be reduced from two (2) to one (1) and shall change from two (2) casements which are centered on the addition to a single double hung which shall be located off center. The installed window with the snap in grids shall be removed and replaced with an all wood single pane true divided light window in a 6/6 light pattern to match what is existing on the house.

Discussion

Commissioner Ovian stated that it would have been nice if it would have worked out. The original idea was really nice. He doesn't believe that the applicant should have a different window on the addition than all the other windows in the house. Having a true divided light wood window to match the others isn't a hardship on the owner. It will stick out like a sore thumb if it remains a replacement window.

Commissioner Garrey stated that what was proposed originally was a nice idea to mimic the third floor dormer. He doesn't love this window, but he's more concerned with the type of window that was used.

Commissioner Raymond stated that they should try to make it look like the rest of the windows that are in the house and true divided light will do that.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Raymond, Courchaine, Ovian

MINUTES OF MARCH 12, 2013

Upon motion by Commissioner Rell, seconded by Commissioner Courchaine and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the minutes of the March 12, 2013 meeting as submitted.

Aye: Rell, Courchaine, Ovian

Abstain: Garrey, Raymond

OTHER BUSINESS

Public comments on general matters of the Historic District

Commissioner Ovian stated that there is a red cape on Middletown Avenue that the Commissioners should take a look at. The Commission approved replacement windows that are now in place and it is a very unsuccessful application compared to other applications in the District. A list of houses with approved windows would be successful for the Commission. Also, Commissioner Ovian thanked the Commissioners who responded to his email about the seminar he was attending on local Historic District Commissions.

Commissioner Courchaine stated that he hoped it was a joke when Commissioner Ovian stated that the homeowner “showed the requisite amount of contrition”. The wording could have been different. Also, in the meeting prior to this one, Southern New England Windows’ partner came in and made a detailed presentation on the product. We spent a lot of time tonight asking the same questions. He understands that Commissioners can’t always make it to every meeting. It should be up to the Commissioners to get an update from Kristin and to read through the minutes instead of making the applicant review the same material again.

Report of the Historic District Coordinator

The sign installed by the town and denied by the Commission on Marsh Street has been removed.

Kristin will be on vacation starting April 11th and returning to the office on April 22nd.

Correspondence

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Commissioner Rell, seconded by Commissioner Raymond and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to ADJOURN the meeting at 8:37 PM.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Raymond, Courchaine, Ovian

Respectfully Submitted

TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Michael Rell
-Clerk Pro Tem-